

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Addendum

MIHP Number: B-4107

Property Name: Mutual Benefit Society Building
Property Address: 616 W. Fayette St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Based on a site visit conducted on December 29, 2005 by John Milner Associates, on behalf of Maryland Mass Transit Administration (MTA), this property is no longer extant.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. B-4107

Magi No. 0441074711

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mutual Benefit Society Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 616 West Fayette Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore (City) ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mayor and City Council of Baltimore c/o Market Center Development Corporation

street & number 118 North Howard Street telephone no.: 396-1584

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber SEB 226

street & number 100 North Calvert Street 6th Floor folio 404

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4107

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary

The Mutual Benefit Society building is a two story high, four bay wide brick structure located at the northeast corner of Fayette and Pearl Streets, in the vicinity of Lexington Market. It is a simple structure of tan brick and stone trim. The few decorative elements on the front facade include a stone entrance featuring decorative capitals supporting a sign panel and a metal cornice with a single corner bracket and small dentils. The interior features wood flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, simple wood baseboards and chair rails, and window surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks. The building is in a deteriorated condition and is scheduled for demolition.

General Description

The front facade of the Mutual Benefit Society building at 616 West Fayette Street is made of running bond tan brick. The basement level features three windows protected by grills and capped by stone lintels.

The entrance to the building is located at the second bay from the eastern corner. A flight of five stone steps leads up to a stone surround featuring square columns with Corinthian capitals. A stone panel displaying MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETY, caps the entrance. Two wood panel and glass double doors surmounted by a transom are recessed within the entrance. Simple wood molding in a beaded pattern decorates the door frame. To the right of the door is a small window with a stone sill and lintel. The other windows on the facade are much longer but also feature stone sills and lintels. A metal cornice with a simple entablature, a corner bracket and dentils completes the facade.

The western Pearl Street elevation is five bays wide and features a symmetrical arrangement of windows. It features identical basement and upper floor windows as the front facade. There is no entrance on this elevation. The elevation is constructed on tan brick and is capped by the same metal cornice. Since the roof line slopes to the rear, the cornice acts as a parapet rising above the roof in the rear of the building. The eastern elevation originally adjoined another building. It has been stuccoed after the adjoining structure was demolished. The rear elevation is constructed of common bond red brick. Double windows are located on the eastern side, while the western side features single windows on each floor. The first floor double window has been boarded. The gutter and downspout for the building are located at the rear elevation.

The interior of the building features plaster walls and ceilings. The floors are of wood strips; however, much of the first floor is covered

616 West Fayette Street
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Description Continued Page 1

with plywood. The only decorative features include simple baseboard, chair rails and wood frames around the windows with bull's eye corner blocks. Three square wood beams located in the center of the building support the upper floor and roof. Heavy iron radiators and some industrial style light fixtures are extant within the interior.

The entrance to the building leads to a small vestibule and stairway to the second floor. A small office partition is located at the front of the first floor. Two wood panel and glass doors lead into the office. The partition is made up of lower wood panels surmounted by obscure glass which has been painted over. Upper transom windows feature incised geometrical patterns. The remainder of the first floor is open except for the central wood beams, a closet and bathroom. The second floor has been divided by makeshift partitions creating a front room and bathroom. The physical condition of the interior is deteriorated and has been apparently damaged by a minor fire.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4107

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1906

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

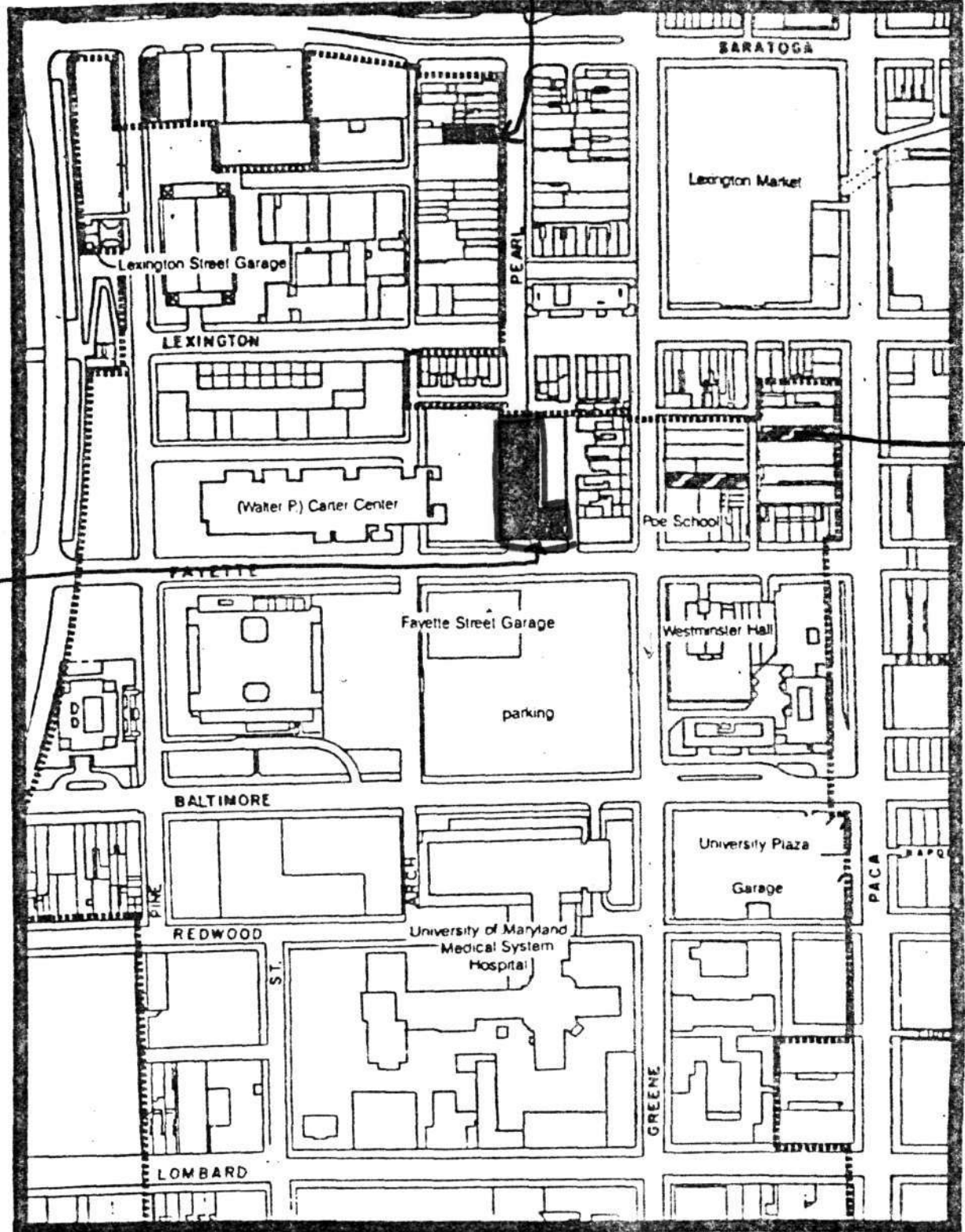
The Mutual Benefit Society building was apparently built in 1906 and housed a local insurance agency. It was occupied by this firm until 1919 and was later occupied by a variety of uses including a cap manufacturer, a disinfecting company and a steam iron manufacturing firm. Architecturally, the building is a small, fairly utilitarian structure which lacks much decorative detailing. The front entrance and surround incorporates some classical design elements which were popular in the early twentieth century reflecting the Renaissance Revival architectural style. The simplicity of this structure, however, is a far cry from the ornate designs that larger insurance firms were building during this time period in the Financial District. There is sadly little information about the Mutual Benefit Society, and an architect for this building could not be found.

B-4107

UMAB

EXCHANGE OF PROPERTIES

234-236 Pearl St





612-616
w Fayette St

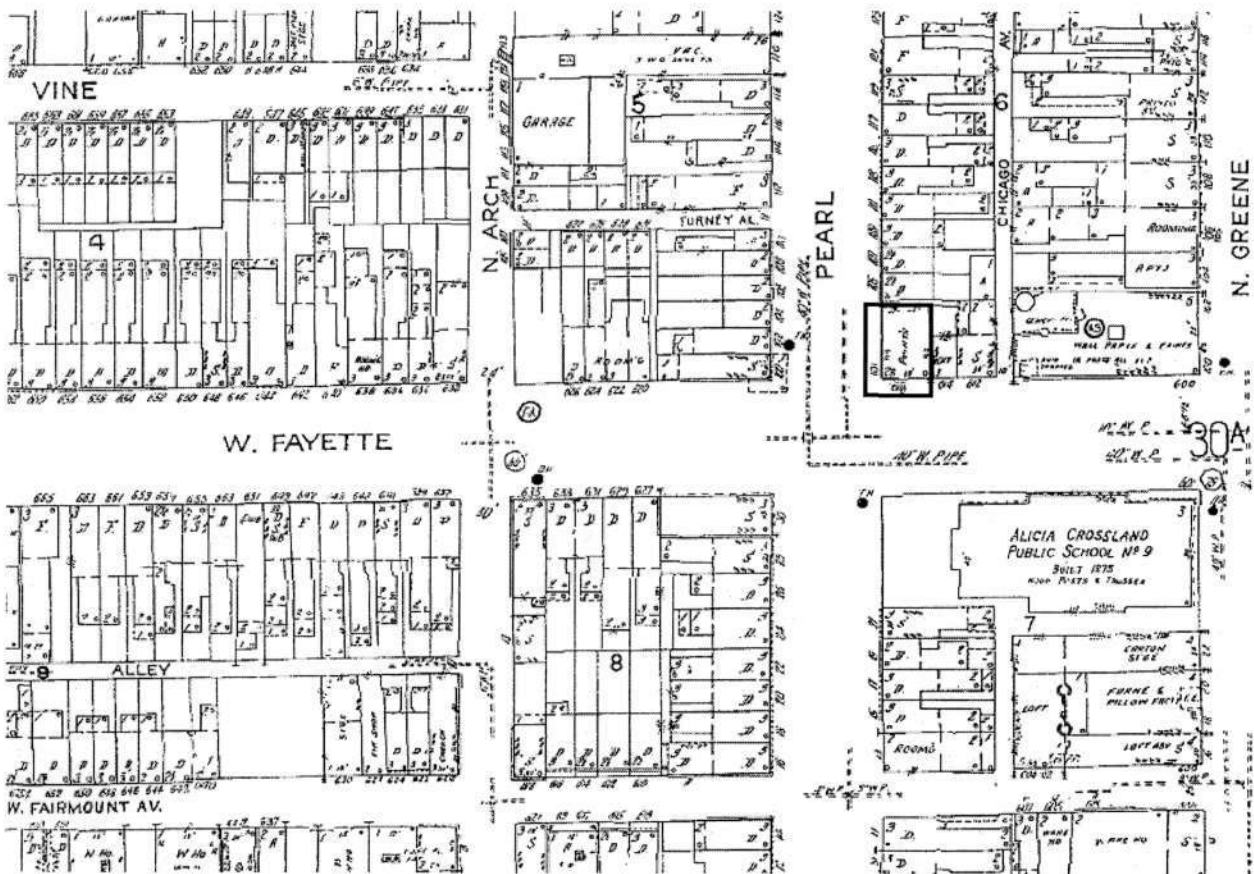
117-119 Diamond St

LEGEND :

----- CAMPUS BOUNDARY

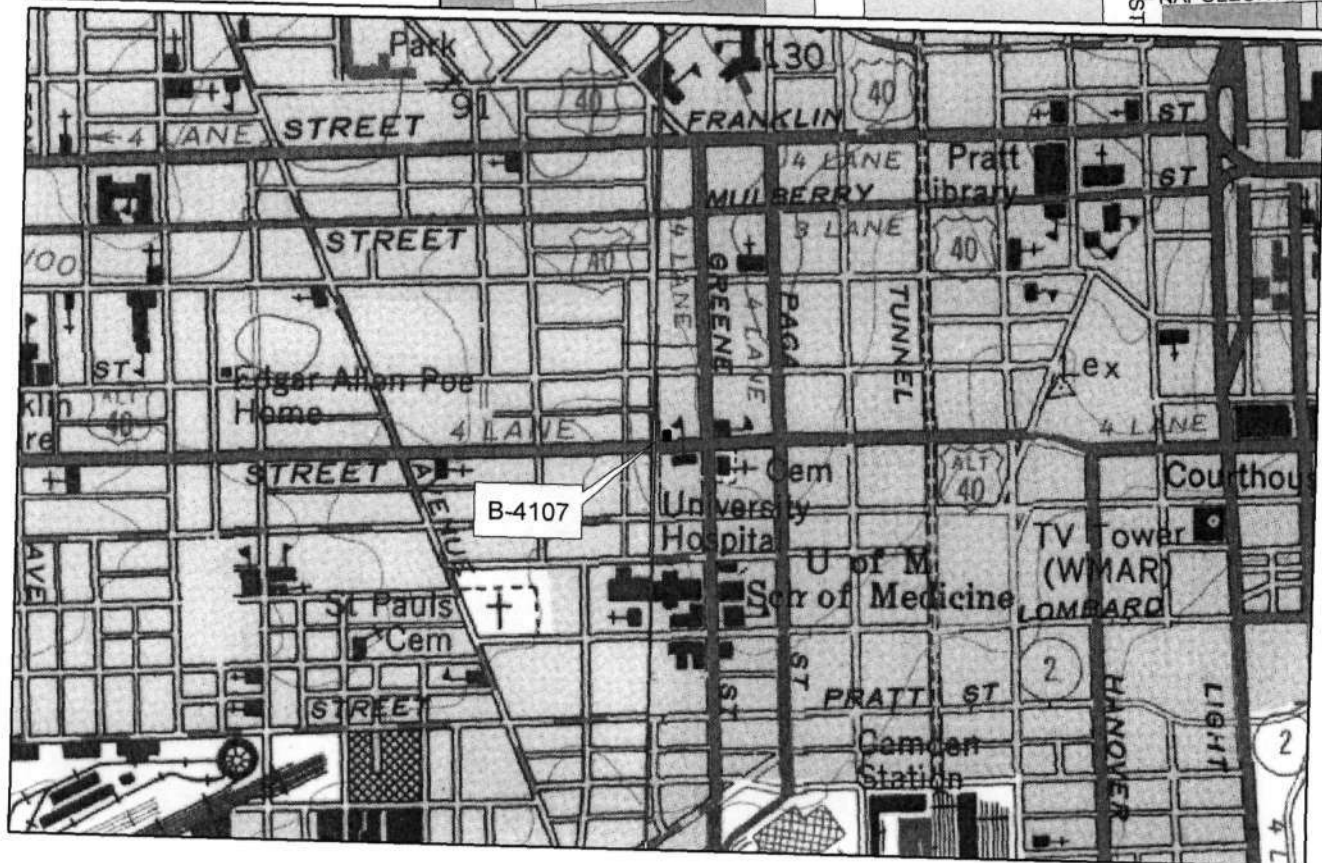
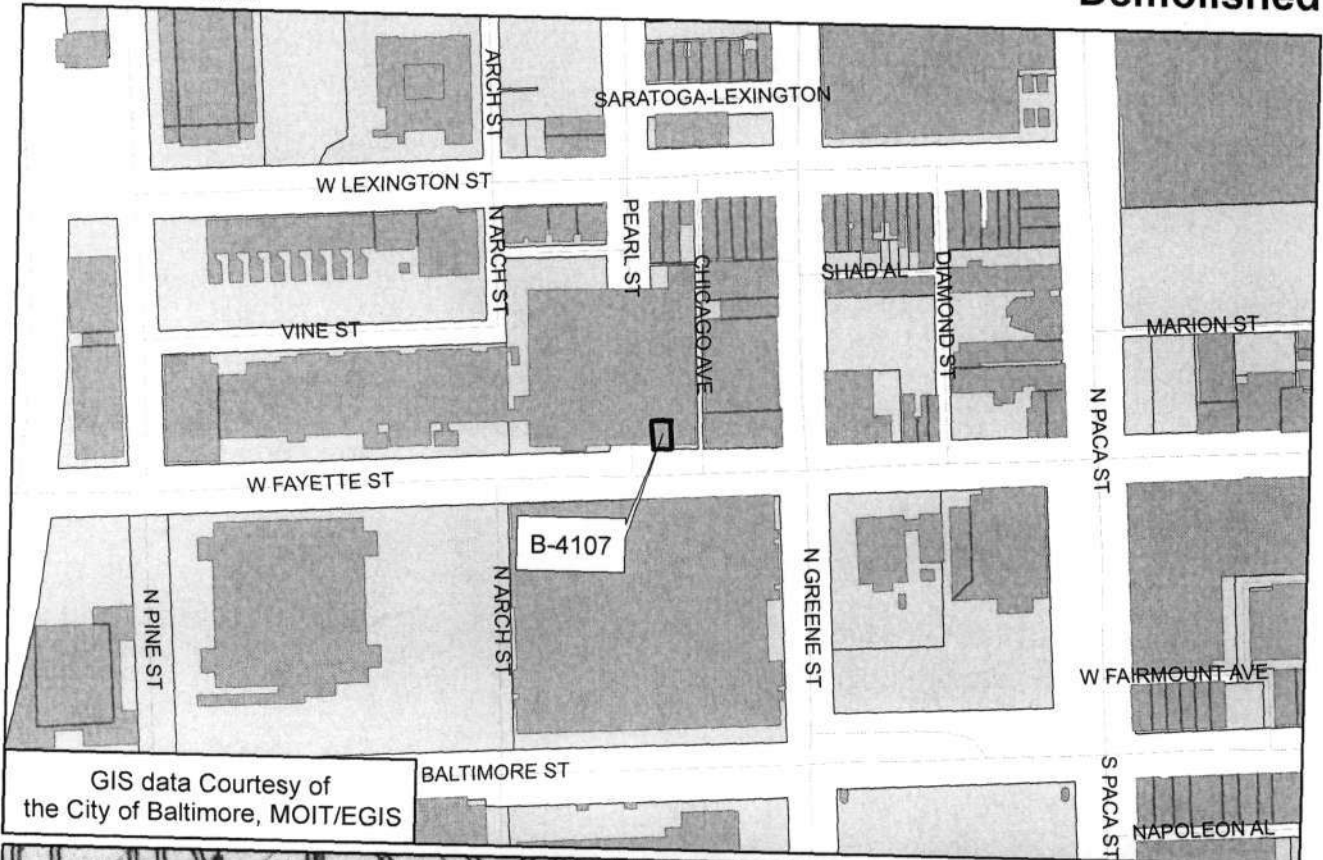
 CITY TO UNIVERSITY
 UNIVERSITY TO CITY

B-4107
 Mutual Benefit Society
 616 W. Fayette Street
 Baltimore
 Sanborn Baltimore 1914-1953 vol. 1A, 1914, Sheet 29A



B-4107
Mutual Benefit Society
616 W. Fayette Street (now 622 Fayette Street)
Block 0616 Lot 001
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad

Demolished





MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETY BUILDING B-4107

BALTIMORE (CITY), MARYLAND

616 WEST FAYETTE STREET

BILL McAllen

~~198~~ OCTOBER 1985

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SOUTH FACADE AND EAST ELEVATION -

VIEW LOOKING NORTH

1/4



MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETY BUILDING B-4107
BALTIMORE (CITY), MARYLAND
616 WEST FAYETTE STREET

BILL M. ALLEN

OCTOBER 1985

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

NORTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS -
VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST

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MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETY BUILDING B-4107

BALTIMORE (CITY), MARYLAND

616 WEST FAYETTE STREET

BILL MCALLEN

OCTOBER 1985

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INTERIOR - FIRST FLOOR - PARTITIONED FRONT OFFICE

VIEW LOOKING TOWARDS FAYETTE STREET

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MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETY BUILDING

B- 4107

BALTIMORE (CITY), MARYLAND

616 WEST FAYETTE STREET

BILL McALLEN

OCTOBER 1985

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INTERIOR - FIRST FLOOR - DETAIL OF
WINDOWS - NORTHWEST CORNER

4/4